

**METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION LICENSING COMMISSION**

**Minutes of**

**May 27, 2008**

The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Transportation Licensing Commission (the "Commission") met in regular session on this date at the Metropolitan Courthouse. The Commissioners present were Acting Chair Tom Turner and Commissioners Mary Griffin, James Utley, and Ed Whitmore (4). Also attending were Commission staff members Walter Lawhorn, Milton Bowling and Lisa Steelman; and Brian McQuiston, Director-Executive Secretary to the Commission.

**Acting Chair Tom Turner** called the meeting to order, welcomed new Commissioner Mary Griffin, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He read the Notice of Appeal statement, advising of the right to appeal decisions of the Transportation Licensing Commission.

The minutes of the April 29, 2008 meeting were approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING: TAXICAB METER RATES**

Director McQuiston stated that the last amendment of the taxicabs ordinance to increase meter rates had been approved in 2000; this established a progression of rate increases, the latest of which had been implemented in 2003. He explained the current rate structure. The director noted the practical considerations affecting the introduction or amendment of any rates-related legislation, and concluded that any proposal to affect taxi meter rates should be presented to the Commission before July, or the bill would be unlikely to be passed for at least twelve months. Director McQuiston stated that the certificate holders had met on May 9, and had proposed the following increases:

- increase in the mileage rate, from \$2.00/mile to \$2.30/mile;
- increase in the waiting time charge, from \$0.30/minute to \$0.367/minute;
- increase in the additional passenger charge, for the first additional passenger only, from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

The director presented information comparing the current and proposed rates with other cities.

**Acting Chair Tom Turner** asked if the proposed rates affected airport-related rates. Director McQuiston responded that airport-related charges did not require amendment of the ordinance, and could be changed by the Commission Rules. He recommended that the Commission defer consideration of any airport rate increases until meter rates were adjusted, in order to maintain rate consistency.

**Acting Chair Turner** opened the hearing for public comment.

The following spoke in opposition to the proposal: Abdelrhman Hussein, Chris Vanatta, Omed Walybek, Sharif Abdullahi, Mahamud Yusuf, Baleke Kromah, Abdinasir Ismail, Yaynshet Feleke, Deneke Fanta, Muluken Adane, Abdurahman Noor, Megan Macaraeg, Kesete Kahase, Nguessan Affoumou, Basel Awwad, Ernest Pillow, and Omer Adam.

No one spoke in support of the proposal. The public hearing was closed.

**Commissioner James Utley** moved to retain the current rates. **Commissioner Ed Whitmore** seconded, and the motion was approved (3-0).

#### **APPLICATION FOR WRECKER DRIVER PERMIT: SIMON MAKUACH**

Mr. Makuach appeared before the Commission. Director McQuiston provided Commissioners with the results of his background check, which indicated a number of felonies from 1995 to 2007. Mr. Makuach stated that all except one of the arrests, for voluntary manslaughter, had been dismissed. **Commissioner Ed Whitmore** moved to disapprove the application. **Commissioner Mary Griffin** seconded, and the motion was approved (3-0).

#### **APPLICATION FOR TAXICAB DRIVER PERMIT: KELAYU ASBEHA**

Mr. Asbeha failed to appear. **Commissioner Mary Griffin** moved to disapprove his application. **Commissioner James Utley** seconded, and the motion was approved (3-0).

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Randy Bailey, vice president of the Davidson County Zone Towing Association, highlighted the need for action to support the wrecker rate increases approved by the Commission in December 2007 and January 2008. Director McQuiston stated that the Commission had delayed implementation of the Wrecker Rules changes approved at the last meeting until July, in order to provide license holders sufficient time to make necessary adjustments and to reduce any negative financial impact on their businesses.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Brian E. McQuiston  
Director-Executive Secretary

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Helen S. Rogers  
Chair